

OPINION 1684

Lepomis Rafinesque, 1819 (Osteichthyes, Perciformes): gender fixed as masculine

Ruling

(1) Under the plenary powers the gender of the name *Lepomis* Rafinesque, 1819 is hereby ruled to be masculine.

(2) The name *Lepomis* Rafinesque, 1819 (gender: masculine, as ruled in (1) above), type species by original designation *Labrus auritus* Linnaeus, 1758, is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology.

(3) The name *auritus* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Labrus auritus* (specific name of the type species of *Lepomis* Rafinesque, 1819), is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

History of Case 2715

An application for the gender of the name *Lepomis* Rafinesque, 1819 to be fixed as masculine was received from Profs David A. Etnier (*University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee, U.S.A.*) and Melvin L. Warren Jr. (*Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois, U.S.A.*) on 1 March 1989. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 47: 280–282 (December 1990). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

A comment from Dr Reeve M. Bailey (*Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, U.S.A.*), published in BZN 48: 253–254 (September 1991), noted that while *Lepomis* Rafinesque, 1819 is feminine under a strict interpretation of Article 30b of the Code, it had had 'highly consistent treatment' as masculine, and that the American Fisheries Society had agreed this should be continued pending resolution of the case. A comment in support of the application from Prof C. Richard Robins (*Rosensteil School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, Miami, Florida, U.S.A.*) was also published in BZN 48: 254, together with a report of support from a further six ichthyologists. Among these, Prof Robert E. Jenkins (*Roanoke College, Salem, Virginia, U.S.A.*) noted (in litt.) that he would treat *Lepomis* as masculine in his forthcoming book (1992) on the freshwater fishes of Virginia, to be published by the American Fisheries Society and therefore to receive wide circulation. Prof Brooks M. Burr (*Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, Carbondale, Illinois, U.S.A.*) reported that in a field guide to 790 species of freshwater fishes of North America north of Mexico, co-authored by Prof L. Page and himself, *Lepomis* had been treated as masculine 'in accordance with common and consistent practice over the past 40 years'.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 December 1991 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 47: 281. At the close of the voting period on 1 March 1992 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 24: Bayer, Bock, Bouchet, Cocks, Corliss, Dupuis, Hahn, Halvorsen, Heppell, Holthuis, Kabata, Lehtinen, Macpherson, Mahnert, Martins de Souza, Minelli, Nielsen, Nye, Ride, Savage, Schuster, Štys, Thompson, Uéno

Negative votes — 3: Cogger, Starobogatov and Trjapitzin.

No votes were received from Kraus and Willink.

Holthuis commented that he voted in favour of the proposal to remove any doubts that might exist on the gender of the generic name; since the original author (Rafinesque) had treated it as masculine, the name should be treated as such and Commission action was unnecessary.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

auritus, *Labrus*, Linnaeus, 1758, *Systema Naturae*, Ed. 10, vol. 1, p. 283.

Lepomis Rafinesque, 1819, *Journal de Physique, de Chimie, d'Histoire Naturelle et des Arts*, **88**: 420.